

Safety Alert – Hazardous Materials

The following information, if followed, will help protect individuals from dangers posed by Hazardous Waste along the highways.

METH LAB WASTES: Methamphetamine drug lab waste can be found in many shapes and forms. Over 300 different chemicals can be used in production of the drug depending on the procedure used. The waste can be disposed of in many different ways.



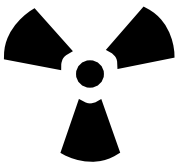
Propane cylinders from grills are used to transport anhydrous ammonia. This ammonia can burn your skin and cause very severe respiratory damage. These tanks, when used with the brass fitting, can explode when moved. The ammonia degrades the brass to the point where it can blow the fitting out of the tank, endangering individuals in the area. The brass fittings on the tanks will turn a blue to blue green color. Some tanks have been modified with other fittings. If you find cylinders, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to your local police department and your North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) county maintenance office.



Other meth lab waste could be medicine boxes, pill residue (putty looking substance pink to red in color), respirator masks, rubber gloves, rubber hosing and clamps, pyrex glass, corning containers and other containers with rubber hoses attached. Bed sheets or pillowcases stained red or containing a white powdery residue may also be found.



RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS:



If you see this symbol or the words **RADIOACTIVE** on a package, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.

BIOHAZARD MATERIAL - MEDICAL WASTE:



This is the symbol for biohazard materials that could possibly be found on the roadway. If you find a container with this symbol, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.



This container was labeled as having Methyl Ethyl Ketone in it. It was tested and found to contain used motor oil. Labels on containers **DO NOT** always correspond with their contents. If you find a container that has a material in it, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note the location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.

The lid on this drum is expanded outwards which indicates a good possibility of pressure inside container. There is a danger of exploding if this container were moved or touched. Other types of containers may also be found and if you are unsure whether the container is safe to handle, **DO NOT TOUCH** but note location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.



OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Never pick up the following:

Antifreeze
Abandoned barrels
Broken automotive batteries
Bulging or dented containers
Chemical containers
Containers leaking an unknown substance
Containers of unidentifiable materials
Dead animals
Gas Cans

Hypodermic needles
Narcotics
Paint cans
Pesticides / Herbicide containers
Propane tanks
Sharp objects
Unidentifiable containers
Used oil
Weapons

DO:

1. Always approach a container from uphill and upwind. The wind will blow any vapors away from you and approaching from uphill will prevent you from walking into any chemical present on the ground.
2. Leave the area immediately if you detect any odors out of the ordinary. Odors *can be connected with meth lab hazardous waste as well as other chemicals found*, so do be alert for odors that are:
 - Ether-like
 - Solvent-like
 - Vinegar-like
 - Ammonia-like
3. Put your safety and the safety of the individuals with you **FIRST AND FOREMOST**.
4. If you feel a situation is or could possibly be unsafe leave the area immediately. Be careful, don't take chances and please work safely.
5. Note the location and report it to your NCDOT county maintenance office.